



**Remarks of U.S. Attorney McGregor W. Scott**

**June 8, 2005 1:30 p.m.**

**Press Conference re Lodi Investigation**

Good Afternoon, my name is McGregor Scott, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California. I am joined by FBI Special Agent in Charge Keith Slotter and Chuck Demore of the Bureau of Immigration Customs Enforcement. Also with me is the lead prosecutor on the investigation, Assistant United States Attorney Stephen Lapham.

Protecting America from potential terrorist attacks is the top mission of the United States Department of Justice. In recent days, the FBI, the U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Department of Homeland Security and other allied federal, state, and local agencies have worked around the clock to follow-up on information received pertaining to individuals in the community of Lodi, California, located 35 miles south of Sacramento.

Our collective efforts have resulted in the arrests of Hamid Hayat, of Lodi, and his father Umer Hayat, also of Lodi, California. Complaints have been filed against both men for violations of 18 U.S.C. 1001, making false statements to the FBI. Copies of these complaints are available in the back of the room and have been posted at our office's website. Umer Hayat was arraigned yesterday and ordered detain by Magistrate Judge Peter Nowinski. Hamid Hayat is scheduled to be arraigned this Friday, June 10, at 2:00 p.m. before Magistrate Judge Nowinski.

Two others have been detained by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement on immigration violations. They are Muhammed Adil Khan and Shabbir Ahmed, both residents of Lodi, California.

Recent events were prompted by the return of Hamid Hayat to this country from Pakistan. Mr. Hayat had been on the "No Fly" list, but was downgraded to the "Selectee List" after having been interviewed in Japan.

Last Friday, June 3, Hamid Hayat was interviewed by special agents of the FBI here in Sacramento. During that interview, Mr. Hayat denied that he had ever attended any terrorist training camp or school, and stated he was not a Jihadi member, and that he would never be involved with anything related to terrorism.

The following day, Mr. Hayat willingly underwent a polygraph, and his answers were found indicative of deception. After approximately two more hours of questioning, Hamid admitted that he had, in fact, attended a Jihadist training camp in Pakistan for approximately 6 months in 2003-2004. He also confirmed that the camp was run by Al-Qaeda and that they were being

trained on how to kill Americans. He further stated that he specifically requested to come to the United States to carry out his Jihadi mission.

Hamid Hayat's father, Umer Hayat, also was interviewed on June 3 by the FBI. During that interview, he denied that his son was a terrorist. On June 4, when confronted by the admissions his son had made, Umer Hayat confirmed that his son had attended a Jihadist training camp in Pakistan in 2003-2004. He also admitted that he paid for his son's flight and provided him with an allowance of \$100 per month, knowing his son intended to attend a jihadi training camp.

These are allegations only and both men are presumed innocent. I wish to emphasize that this investigation is ongoing at this time and evolving literally by the moment. We fully anticipate that there will be further developments in the hours and days ahead. We fully intend to keep the media and the community informed of these developments.

Let me say a few words about the nature of this investigation. Special Agent Slotter, Special Agent Demore and I wish to emphasize that an investigation of this nature is not taken lightly. Every step we have taken-and will take-- is examined, reexamined and vetted by the highest levels of the Justice Department. The multiple layers of review are designed to ensure that people are not improperly accused of potential terrorist activities. They are also designed to ensure full and complete compliance with the United States Constitution and the laws set forth by Congress. In this investigation, we have done precisely that. Based on the information we have, we are acting absolutely appropriately and responsibly in taking the actions that we have.

I wish also to reassure our community that we are vigorously pursuing this matter. No resource or effort is being spared in running all the information we have to ground.

I would also like to make a statement to the Muslim community in Lodi and elsewhere. We have the greatest respect for the Muslim faith and the Muslim members of our community. These are criminal charges and immigration charges against certain individuals, not a religion or people in a community. And to those who would seek to retaliate against Muslim persons for the actions at issue in this case, Special Agent Slotter and I have one simple word of advice: Don't. As our agencies have long demonstrated, we have zero tolerance for hate crimes and acts of retaliation.